



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 16, 2006
Week Ending: October 15, 2006
CWP WA-CW4206

Rain Received by Most of State Winter Wheat Price Strong

There were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Rain over the weekend improved moisture conditions across most of the state. Winter wheat seeding was almost complete with some light rains received in the southeast corner of the state. Wheat reached \$5 per bushel in Portland for the first time in many years. Potato and corn for grain harvest continued, while corn silage harvest wound down.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 8% very poor, 6% poor, 24% fair and 62% good. Supplemental feeding continued and calves were weaned and shipped to market. Hog producers were busy preparing to butcher hogs.

Fruit and Vegetables

Cranberry harvest is about 60 percent complete with average yields reported. Grape, apple, sweet corn, and pumpkin harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.3
Last Week	6.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	9	26	65	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	13	35	50	2
Subsoil	7	36	57	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	44	41	0
Irrigation Water	1	6	93	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	8	90	0
Hay & Roughage	1	17	75	7

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	92	85	86	92
Winter Wheat Emerged	72	58	47	71
Potatoes Harvested	85	76	84	84
Corn Dented	100	97	100	100
Corn Mature	98	88	99	97
Corn Harvested	72	53	57	60
Corn Silage Harvested	92	66	80	82
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	99	95	98	94

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	10	40	46	3
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	15	85	0
Corn	0	0	20	77	3

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Farms were cutting corn for silage and there was some sixth cutting of grass. The weather was still holding sunny and dry.

Grays Harbor: The rural landscape continued to transition into a tapestry of fall colors as native deciduous trees and shrubs displayed their fall foliage. U-Pick pumpkin farms completed the kaleidoscope of fall colors as thousands of pumpkins patiently waited to be selected for Halloween carving. The Grayland Chamber of Commerce held their annual Cranberry Festival to showcase this very important component of the Grays Harbor County agricultural industry. The event included a host of activities in addition to bus tours to local bogs. Cranberry harvest was approximately 60 percent complete with growers reporting average yields. Christmas tree growers continued preparing fields for harvest which is slated to begin in mid-November.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The first frost of the season occurred as maple leaves were turning yellow, both indications that fall was here. It appears that growers who planted sweet corn very late will get their crop in as fall rains and frost have held off long enough for the crop to mature. Some growers have taken a fourth and fifth cutting of grass.

Mason: There was one inch of rain on Saturday through mid day Sunday which brought the cleared fields into a condition where rototilling occurred Sunday afternoon with nice results. The pastures were growing with the mild weather. Cattle were being fed hay to let the pastures recover from the dry summer. Fields were limed earlier this week under ideal conditions and the rain had washed it in. We had slight frost midweek but with the change of the weather, the temperatures have warmed up into the 40's at night.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good but the area needed some rain. Rain was forecasted for this past weekend and that helped a lot. No unusual situations to report. No report of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: Mild days and cool nights. This was normal weather for this time of year. No apparent crop losses reported.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 58 degrees and there were 0.5 of an inch of rain recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. Potato, broccoli, corn and pumpkin harvest were still underway. This year's grass seed crop was already in the

ground. This important rotational crop will grow through the winter and spring and be harvested early next summer and since it is a perennial crop it will stay in the field up to 5 years. You may notice the dark planting strips in the fields. These two inch bands are charcoal that protects the seed from the first application of herbicide that will keep the weeds at bay so that the grass seed can get established. Next years tulip, daffodil and wheat fields were currently being planted.

Snohomish/King: Much needed rain finally came again at the end of the week. Well over 0.5 inches fell in some areas. Grass silage was being bagged and manure lagoons were being emptied in preparation for winter. Pumpkin and apple harvests continued. Christmas tree growers were preparing for their busy season.

Snohomish/King (2nd Report): Quite a bit of fog in the morning, but still warm and in the 60's. Perfect weather for cutting and harvesting corn, pumpkins, and picking sweet corn.

Thurston: Sunny days with cool temperatures allowed agricultural producers to continue with fall chores and continue with some field cultivation. Turf grass growers were able to complete fall seeding of fields under nearly ideal conditions. Christmas tree growers took advantage of the dry weather to begin removing stakes from Noble fir leaders. U-Pick pumpkin farms were pleased with the sunny days and brisk weather which were conducive to on-farm sales. Heavy rain at the end of the week was welcomed by almost all agricultural producers as the soil profile remained very dry. Some areas reported nearly an inch of rain which fell on Sunday.

Thurston (2nd Report): It started to rain around 10 p.m. Saturday night. It lasted all night and well into the morning. The rain resumed periodically Sunday night as well. The rain had settled the dust. The Meadow mushroom should be up soon in the pasture, as well as the chanterelles in the woodlot. Producers were busy processing a big tomato crop. Italian red sauce and green tomato relish were in great abundance.

Whatcom: The final harvest of grass for silage and haylage was performed. Corn chopping was 95 percent complete with reports of average yields. Some raspberry growers were tearing out old stands as a part of their rotational practice. Rain over the weekend improved dry land pastures as grasses were softened.

Central

Benton: No crop losses were reported from damaged crops. Grapes and apple harvest continued. We received some rain this past weekend that should help the wheat already planted in the county.

Douglas/Chelan: Rain received throughout the counties this past weekend. 2007 winter wheat crop looked to be in good condition going into winter. Apple harvest continued. Some livestock producers were bringing in their cattle. Their calves were being weaned and sold. Others were forced to move out of fall range due to the Highland Orchard Road fire, which burned approximately 40 square miles of range/pasture land near Bridgeport.

Grant: Potato harvest continued. Fourth cutting of alfalfa was winding up. Processing carrot harvest began. Apple harvest continued. Dry bean harvest has ended. Dry corn harvest was in full swing, with silage corn harvest completed.

Kittitas: The area experienced several good frosts this week, slowing down fall growth. Daytime highs this week were in the 70s, probably the last week of the year for this weather. Cattle were still coming in from higher elevation range, and producers were weaning calves.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from eight degrees below normal to seven degrees above normal, with 0.17 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Precipitation was needed as soil moisture conditions declined.

Asotin/Garfield: The weather has still been very dry. A few showers came through the area a few days last week, but accumulations have been small. More moisture was needed for proper establishment of winter wheat.

Garfield: Light rain over Saturday and Sunday. The seeding will ensue when dry enough. Some cattle were still in summer range.

Lincoln: Precipitation was needed as soil moisture conditions declined.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Most of winter wheat has emerged in good to fair condition. Dry conditions persisted and rain was needed.

Lincoln (3rd Report): We were in need of rain.

Pend Oreille: The temperatures were 64 degrees for the highs and 18 degrees for the lows with precipitation at 0.2 inches. Much needed rain came in on Sunday. Cold nights and cool days have increased the eating of all live stock with all livestock putting on good winter weight. Winter coats were becoming thicker but not long as of yet. Poultry were off laying due to cold weather. Hogs were fat and will be ready to butcher in about one week.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Sunday the two counties finally received some measurable rainfall. In fact, in Spokane

County as of Monday morning we had received approximately 0.5 of an inch of very gentle rain. It was still raining this morning as I reported. This was the first good soaking rain since the middle of June for the majority of the county. Winter wheat that had been seeded into the dust now will start emerging in areas other than the draws. The rain was too late for fall pasture and growers were already supplementing feed. During the week wheat hit \$5.00 per bushel in Portland for the first time in a number of years and looked to be advancing slowly up the charts. Picking apples and selling pumpkins and other fall crops continued up on Green Bluff.

Stevens: Showers over the weekend provided moisture for winter wheat. Calves continued to move to market.

Walla Walla: Some light rains were welcome. Still need more precipitation to get the fall wheat off to a good start. Cattle were starting to come off of summer pastures. Hay supplies may get short.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Reports indicated seeding was wrapping up throughout the counties. Cooler nights, warmer days, and a nice shower on Sunday.

Whitman: Conditions remained dry and warm through the week. Rain came to the Palouse on Sunday wetting fields slightly. Totals will probably be 0.25 of an inch or less in most areas. Newly seeded winter wheat was going to be in need of much more rain before heading into winter.

Weekly Weather Statistics

October 16, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	34	68	50	-2	6	-8	0	0	0.68	-0.02	1	2.32	-1.02	69	12
Everett	43	67	53	1	22	4	0	0	0.40	-0.23	1	2.00	-1.42	58	13
Hoquiam	39	73	55	0	38	3	1	1	1.14	-0.11	1	2.58	-3.14	45	10
Kelso	36	77	54	1	31	4	0	0	0.55	-0.20	1	2.16	-1.72	56	10
Olympia	32	74	52	2	19	7	0	0	0.73	-0.10	1	1.57	-2.32	40	10
Sea-Tac	43	72	55	2	34	8	0	0	0.47	-0.16	1	1.92	-1.22	61	10
Shelton	29	74	51	-3	12	-11	0	0	0.90	-0.15	1	2.72	-2.02	57	11
Tacoma	34	72	53	0	22	1	0	0	0.67	0.04	1	1.65	-1.54	52	7
Vancouver	35	76	56	4	45	21	0	0	0.37	-0.24	1	1.11	-2.15	34	11
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	28	75	53	5	23	14	0	0	0.19	0.07	1	0.33	-0.37	47	6
Stampede Pass	39	72	54	13	39	39	4	4	0.63	-0.62	1	2.88	-3.01	49	11
Wenatchee	36	70	54	3	31	9	0	-1	0.21	0.14	1	0.38	-0.17	69	4
Yakima AP	28	73	52	2	18	1	0	0	0.17	0.10	1	0.74	0.19	135	4
NORTHEAST															
Colville	28	67	49	3	9	4	0	0	0.13	-0.10	1	0.59	-1.01	37	6
Deer Park	21	69	46	-4	0	-9	0	0	0.12	-0.09	1	0.66	-0.62	52	6
Spokane AP	29	69	51	2	15	5	0	0	0.17	-0.03	1	0.49	-0.60	45	4
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	29	72	53	0	26	2	0	-2	0.22	0.15	1	0.67	0.16	131	7
Moses Lake	27	72	52	-3	18	-6	0	-2	0.35	0.28	1	0.67	0.16	131	8
Quincy	33	70	53	2	19	1	0	0	0.14	0.07	1	0.30	-0.28	52	5
Ritzville	35	72	52	2	21	7	0	0	0.07	-0.07	1	0.33	-0.53	38	5
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	33	75	55	-3	35	-9	0	-5	0.12	0.05	1	0.45	-0.05	90	7
Pasco	27	73	52	-3	21	-11	0	-2	0.27	0.17	1	0.70	0.16	130	8
Pullman	27	72	50	0	13	-2	0	0	0.08	-0.20	1	0.72	-0.83	46	5
Whitman Miss.	25	76	49	-3	8	-11	0	0	0.05	-0.16	2	0.75	-0.35	68	8
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	28	70	49	-3	15	-2	0	0	0.00	-0.30	0	0.29	-1.52	16	3
Lewiston ID	36	71	54	-1	31	0	1	-1	0.02	-0.19	1	0.71	-0.49	59	7

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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